

Mid-East Prophecy Update – February 6th, 2011

- Every week, we set aside a few minutes on Sunday mornings to look at Bible prophecy
- The reason for this is because the Bible predicts certain events that will take place in the last days before the Lord returns.
- We believe that what's happening in the world today is a fulfillment of those Bible Prophecies.

- We look primarily at events in the Middle East, specifically related to Israel because, as it's been said; "Israel is God's prophetic clock."

- As I'm sure you've been anticipating, for today's update, we'll be looking at how the situation in Egypt fits into end times Bible prophecy.
- First you should know that what we're about to see in the scriptures blindsided many a Bible teacher in that it happened very suddenly.
- The Bible prophecies concerning Egypt are thought by many as taking place during the seven year tribulation and even the millennium.

- Let me hasten to say, much of what we'll look at today, does find its ultimate fulfillment in, and at the end, of the seven year tribulation.
- However, seeing it unfold now, as it begins to come to pass, would seem to indicate that there's now an unstoppable momentum.
- What I mean by that is this; when you see prophecies that are fulfilled in the tribulation begin now, then how close are we right now?

- Let's go ahead and jump in to God's Word and see what the Bible says about Egypt in the last days. It can be found in Isaiah 19:1-5.
- In the interest of time, we'll take an overview of the prophecy in this chapter, and in so doing unveil, six specifics, concerning Egypt.

1. Egypt will experience an uprising in the form of a civil war (Isaiah 19:1-2)

(1) An oracle concerning Egypt: See, the LORD rides on a swift cloud and is coming to Egypt. The idols of Egypt tremble before him, and the hearts of the Egyptians melt within them. (2) "I will stir up Egyptian against Egyptian— brother will fight against brother, neighbor against neighbor, city against city, kingdom against kingdom.

2. Egypt will be ruled over by a powerful and cruel master (Isaiah 19:3-4)

(3) The Egyptians will lose heart, and I will bring their plans to nothing; they will consult the idols and the spirits of the dead, the mediums and the spiritists. (4) I will hand the Egyptians over to the power of a cruel master, and a fierce king will rule over them," declares the Lord, the LORD Almighty.

Daniel 11:42-43 KJV He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape. (43) But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians *shall be* at his steps.

3. Egypt will become even more impoverished (Isaiah 19:5-10)

(5) The waters of the river will dry up, and the riverbed will be parched and dry. (6) The canals will stink; the streams of Egypt will dwindle and dry up. The reeds and rushes will wither, (7) also the plants along the Nile, at the mouth of the river. Every sown field along the Nile will become parched, will blow away and be no more. (8) The fishermen will groan and lament, all who cast hooks into the Nile; those who throw nets on the water will pine away. (9) Those who work with combed flax will despair, the weavers of fine linen will lose hope. (10) The workers in cloth will be dejected, and all the wage earners will be sick at heart.

4. Egypt will be led astray by corruption and deception (Isaiah 19:11-15)

(11) The officials of Zoan are nothing but fools; the wise counselors of Pharaoh give senseless advice. How can you say to Pharaoh, "I am one of the wise men, a disciple of the ancient kings"? (12) Where are your wise men now? Let them show you and make known what the LORD Almighty has planned against Egypt. (13) The officials of Zoan have become fools, the leaders of Memphis are deceived; the cornerstones of her peoples have led Egypt astray. (14) The LORD has poured into them a spirit of dizziness; they make Egypt stagger in all that she does, as a drunkard staggers around in his vomit. (15) There is nothing Egypt can do— head or tail, palm branch or reed.

5. Egypt will be in fear of Israel because of the God of Israel (Isaiah 19:16-17)

(16) In that day the Egyptians will be like women. They will shudder with fear at the uplifted hand that the LORD Almighty raises against them. (17) And the land of Judah will bring terror to the Egyptians; everyone to whom Judah is mentioned will be terrified, because of what the LORD Almighty is planning against them.

6. Egypt will be delivered from the Anti-Christ and convert to the God of Israel (Isaiah 19:18-25)

(18) In that day five cities in Egypt will speak the language of Canaan and swear allegiance to the LORD Almighty. One of them will be called the City of Destruction. (19) In that day there will be an altar to the LORD in the heart of Egypt, and a monument to the LORD at its border. (20) It will be a sign and witness to the LORD Almighty in the land of Egypt. When they cry out to the LORD because of their oppressors, he will send them a savior and defender, and he will rescue them. (21) So the LORD will make himself known to the Egyptians, and in that day they will acknowledge the LORD. They will worship with sacrifices and grain offerings; they will make vows to the LORD and keep them. (22) The LORD will strike Egypt with a plague; he will strike them and heal them. They will turn to the LORD, and he will respond to their pleas and heal them. (23) In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria. The Assyrians will go to Egypt and the Egyptians to Assyria. The Egyptians and Assyrians will worship together. (24) In that day Israel will be the third, along with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing on the earth. (25) The LORD Almighty will bless them, saying, "Blessed be Egypt my people, Assyria my handiwork, and Israel my inheritance."

- In light of these current events taking place in the Middle East today, we would do well to watch Egypt Iran Syria and especially Turkey.
- The reason to be watching these nations, is because it becomes a sign to us, that Jesus Christ our Lord is coming, "quickly," for us.

- Last, but certainly not least, I think I would be grossly remiss were I not to talk briefly about our Christian brothers and sisters in Egypt.

MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL - As the disgruntled mobs change the course of the political landscape, the largest Christian community in all the Middle East, anxiously awaits the outcome of this unprecedented movement. The current regime for decades has been a buffer against strong violence and hatred towards the followers of Jesus living in this Biblical land. Our church located on the outlying area of the capital of Cairo cancelled all their services and activities over this past weekend. Pastor H. reports that everyone in the church is safe and he has requested that they all remain in their homes during these mass protests. The church and Christians in Egypt desperately need our prayers during this time in the following areas:

1. Pray for the Lord's protection during this historical transition of government.
2. Ask the Lord to open the hearts of many Muslims in Egypt and this "crisis" will be used for His glory.
3. Pray with us that the Lord will protect the church building from destruction as it could become an open target during these rallies.

We have a mission team planned for the end of this month to minister in Egypt. However with the current security issues and civil unrest join us also in prayer for wisdom on the decision to send this team. As you may recall we recently postponed a teaching team this month that was going into Iraq under similar circumstances.

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Franklin Graham, Samaritan's Purse - This is a critical time of unrest and uncertainty, and Christians need to join together in prayer for this volatile region. I've probably spent more time working in this part of the world than any other. Over the years, Samaritan's Purse has helped hundreds of thousands of suffering people with medical care, food, and other aid. We have helped train and equip hundreds of pastors, distributed thousands of Bibles, and even built over 400 churches in Sudan. More than 2.5 million children in the Middle East and North Africa have received shoe box gifts from Operation Christmas Child. Please join with us in praying for the Christian minorities who could face increasing persecution in the days ahead. Pray that God will use these current crises to open doors and hearts to the Gospel and that many will find "peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1). Ultimately, we know, true peace will come to this region only when Christ returns in power and glory. One of our most faithful ministry partners sent a note saying, "Throughout the Middle East, there is a new generation of evangelists ready to continue the work of our Lord until that blessed day when He returns to us. I ask you to pray that they will be fearless in their work in any circumstance." We are committed to lifting up Christ in the region in any way that we can. Thank you for your prayers and support.

<http://www.samaritanspurse.org/>